



STAFF NOTES:

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CONTENTS

November 21, 1975

USSR-Angola: Press Coverage Continues Heavy. . . 1

[REDACTED] . . 3

[REDACTED] . . 5

[REDACTED] . . 7

[REDACTED] . . 9

[REDACTED] . . 11

[REDACTED] . . 12

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USSR-Angola: Press Coverage Continues Heavy

Soviet press coverage of the civil war in Angola remains extremely heavy. *Pravda*, *Izvestiya* and the Soviet news agency Tass are hammering away at the alleged intervention by outside forces--Chinese, South African, Zairian, former Portuguese "fascists," and "American mercenaries"--on behalf of the Popular Movement's rivals.

Moscow has reserved some of its heaviest brickbats for the Chinese. The Soviet central press recently blasted Peking for its criticism of Moscow's "expansion" and "interference" in Angola. Reflecting Soviet sensitivity to these charges, the commentary railed against Peking's own military, financial, and training support for anti-MPLA forces as well as its collusion with "Portuguese fascists, South African racists, and international monopolies."

Anti-Soviet vitriol has been a standard feature of Chinese commentary on the Angolan conflict for some time. The effort to embarrass Moscow for its involvement with the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola has gained momentum, however, since Peking lowered the visibility of its own involvement by withdrawing Chinese advisers from Zairian training programs for the National Front late last month. Since then, *People's Daily* has carried two commentator articles lambasting Soviet meddling in Angola, and the traditional independence day editorial gave heavy play to the same theme.

NCNA has also carried several lengthy reports focusing on the Soviet role in Angola, and its daily broadcasts have been saturated with replays of anti-Soviet articles and statements from a number of African capitals. Chinese propagandists have had a field day rehashing the generally negative African reaction to Moscow's recognition of

November 21, 1975

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the Popular Movement in contravention of the OAU's call for neutrality in the Angolan dispute. In contrast, Peking has prominently identified itself as a strong supporter of OAU policies. A recent *People's Daily* editorial said the OAU's call for extension of recognition to all three Angolan liberation groups and for the rival organizations to unite was both "explicit and correct."

Pravda on November 17 carried Moscow's indignation over Chinese criticism one step further by claiming that "in the course of recent contacts in Peking," the Chinese made an approach to the US suggesting "paralleled or joint efforts" against the Popular Movement. In addition to raising the spectre of Chinese-US collusion in Angola, *Pravda* replayed a British press report that "American mercenaries"--"former veterans of Vietnam--were serving with the movement's adversaries. The latter charge, while not new, had been absent from Soviet commentary for some time. [REDACTED]

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November 21, 1975